

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the second full paragraph on page 2 with the following paragraph:

-- Various improvements to such conventional amplifiers were patented by the assignee of the present invention.

A2
Particularly, U.S. Patents 6,057,959; 5,963,361; 6,049,413; and 6,061,171 disclose and claim various gain-flattened optical amplifiers. These disclosed amplifiers utilize two-stage amplification in which two stages of Erbium-doped fiber are pumped and in which an inter-stage variable optical attenuator is controlled. Various types of variable optical attenuator control are disclosed including adjusting the attenuation according to the gain of the first and second stages or the ASE (amplified spontaneous emission) of the first and second stages.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

A3
3. (Amended) The optical amplification device in accordance with claim 1, said control circuit including:

a first photodetector operatively coupled to the first end portion of said first segment of active optical fiber, said